

## REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 22 September 2000  
Name of applicant/court: The District Court at Auckland  
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable  
Title of Publication: FirstHand Magazine August 1999  
Other Known Titles: FirstHand Magazine August 1999 Vol. 19, No. 10  
Director: Not Applicable  
Editor: Bob Harris  
Publisher: FirstHand Ltd  
Author: Not Applicable  
Format: Magazine  
Country of Origin: USA  
Language: English

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**Components of film originally examined:** Not Applicable.

Feature: Running time:  
Trailers: Running time:  
Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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#### **SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:**

The magazine entitled *FirstHand Magazine August 1999* is classified as:  
Objectionable.

This classification is because the publication presents sexual activity of an incestuous nature in a manner that legitimises such conduct and titillates the reader.

The publication is a magazine dominated by text of a sexually explicit and titillatory nature. This text takes the form of stories and letters, both of which detail sexual encounters between men. Three letters describe sexual activity between family members, including a father and son.

The Classification Office is of the view that the New Zealand public is likely to consider sexual relationships between family members to be morally proscribed and socially harmful. The presentation of incestuous relationships in a positive light serves to legitimise sexual contact between family members, and may lend support to the view that it is acceptable for parents, or other family members, to engage in sexual activity with related children.

In view of the way in which the publication presents incestuous relationships, the Classification Office finds that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good.

The criteria applied by the Classification Office resulting in the limit on the availability of this publication are prescribed by law. This classification represents the minimum interference with freedom of expression (as affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990) that is consistent with preventing likely injury to the public good.

OFLC Ref: 1075